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JEUX DU CANADA GAMES

Northern athletes head south as excitement builds for the 2007 Canada Winter Games

Three northern athletes are in Toronto this week participating in a multi-day media tour, only two weeks before thousands of young athletes travel to Canada's North for the 2007 Canada Winter Games.

The first Canada Games held north of the 60th parallel begins on February 23 with the Opening Ceremony in downtown Whitehorse. For northern athletes, it's the first time hosting a national multi-sport event in the North and a rare chance to compete at a high level in their home region.

The three athletes are speaking to national media about their experiences as northern athletes, spreading excitement about the Canada Games being hosted in northern Canada and sharing their passion for the North.

All three athletes are competing at the 2007 Canada Games, each representing one of the three territories: biathlete Jeremiah Kitchen is from Whitehorse, Yukon; speed skater Jill Gilday is from Yellowknife, Northwest Territories; and Micheal Putulik, competing in badminton, is from Repulse Bay, Nunavut.

"The Games are an exciting opportunity for the North to host the South. We can show athletes, visitors and audiences watching the Games across the country what the North has to offer," said Yukon biathlete Jeremiah Kitchen.

"I'm looking forward to speaking to media about my home in Nunavut. I'm proud of where I come from and I want to share that with the rest of the country," said Michael Putulik.

"This is the second Canada Games I've participated in as an athlete and I'm thrilled to compete in the North," said Jill Gilday. "Excitement is really building for the Games and I hope our visit to southern Canada will spark people's interest and encourage them to learn more about the North."

The media tour is organized by the National Marketing Campaign. Administered by the 2007 Canada Games Host Society on behalf of the three territorial governments, the campaign works to promote Canada's North and its three Territories as a great place to visit, invest and live.

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To speak to any of the athletes involved in the tour or for more information, contact:
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